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Title:

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR COMMUNICATIONS MANAGEMENT WITH REDUNDANCY

5

TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a system comprising at least one managing system and a number of first managed systems and a number of second managed systems in which redundancy is provided e.g. when management operations are performed by the managing system.

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The invention also relates to a data storing managed system comprising a number of managed objects representing resources which is managed by a managing system able to perform management operations on the managed system.

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Still further the invention relates to a method of providing redundancy in a system comprising at least a first and a second managed system each of which comprises a number of managed objects.

20

The invention also relates to a method of replicating management operations in a system comprising managed systems which are managed by a managing system.

25

STATE OF THE ART

The amount of information or data relating to a managed system can be high as well as complex to handle and sensitive etc. In these cases as well as in others it is often desirable to provide redundancy. Then it is important that the information or data in the redundant systems, which can be two or more, is the same and that when data in a system is changed by a managing system, it must be changed so that it remains consistent in the redundant managed systems.

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In known systems replication of managed data of a managed system, e.g. a network element managed by TMN (Telecommunications

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Management Network) protocols can be carried out by replication of the actual changes of resource data from the network element that is addressed. Replicating on resource level is among others disadvantageous in that the further or secondary changes on a management level, in the MO such as consistency checks, logging, computer updates etc. are not replicated.

Replication can also be achieved through the managing system sending the same management operation to a number of redundant systems.

A serious drawback of implementing replication in this manner is that the management interface and the managing system, i.e. the operations system, themselves are affected which means that the operator and the Customer Administration System (CAS) must be aware of redundancy and therefore also be responsible for maintaining duplicated subscriber data etc.

In for example mobile communication systems of today real-time redundancy is often not applied but a number of systems are provided which merely provide for restoration in the case of a crash in for example a home location register. An example thereon is e.g. given in WO93/25051.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Therefore a system is needed which is robust and which provides a high degree of availability and reliability by means of providing redundancy. A system is needed through which management operations can be provided in at least a first and a second managed system in such a way that the data in the at least two managed systems always will be accurate and up-to-date.

A system is also needed through which, in case a first managed system fails for some reason, a redundant second managed system immediately can start executing without any loss of data. Still further a system is needed through which management operations can

be invoked in at least two managed systems so that the data is kept consistent in both (or more) systems at all times and in that the up-dates or similar operations are transferred to at least two systems in a safe and consistent manner.

5

A system is also needed wherein redundancy does not affect the managing system itself as well as it does not affect the management interface between the managing and managed systems respectively.

10 A method is also needed through which redundancy is provided in a safe and reliable way so that data in redundant systems always is up-to-date and consistent.

15 A method is also needed through which redundancy can be provided without affecting a managing system which manages two or more managed systems and also without affecting the management interface between managing and managed systems.

20 Therefore a system as initially referred to is provided in which management operations are replicated if redundancy is required. Advantageously the management operation is replicated in a first managed system whereafter it is sent to a second managed system. Advantageously the management operation is broken down into a number of managed object instance operations in the first managed
25 system. The managed object instance operations are replicated and sent to the second managed system. A management operation may be a single operation in which case it merely addresses a single managed object instance or it may be a scope operation addressing a number of instances. Still further a filtering condition may be
30 applied on the scope operation so that the management operation merely concerns some of the instances within the scope. This is in short called a filter operation.

35 In various embodiments one or more replication conditions may be given so that only instance operations fulfilling this or these conditions are replicated. The replication conditions may be of a

number of different kinds. An example on a replication condition is that the instance operation has to be an up-dating operation. Generally, the management operations which can be performed on a managed object relate to the creation or deletion of an instance of a managed object, to the setting of an attribute value or the getting of an attribute value. A further operation relates to an action which requests a managed object to perform a task. All of these operations except for the getting of an attribute value relate to up-dating operations. The getting of an attribute value merely means reading and thus does not involve any change. Such an operation generally does not have to be replicated.

A number of conditions can be given in order that an operation be carried out in a first system for a start, such as an instance operation having to match instances comprised within the scope. Another condition relates to the instance operation having to match the instances comprised by the filter criteria. These are however not replication conditions but conditions for an operation to be carried out at all. This means that when scope and and filter conditions have been evaluated, those instances are identified which should be subjected to the management operation in the first managed system or in the addressed system. In addition to e.g. scope and filter conditions, there can be further conditions such as e.g. relating to access conditions, security conditions etc. Replication conditions thus only refer to conditions which are or can be given to control which operations among those that are to be performed in a first managed system, also are to be performed in a second managed system.

However, a replication condition can be that an instance object of an instance operation in a first managed system must have an instance replica in a second managed system or in other words there must be corresponding instances in the two managed systems in order to make a replication of any use. Of course, as far as e.g. create operations are concerned there is no MO-instance in either of the managed systems, e.g. NEs. The replication is then taken to mean

that there shall be a replica in the second managed system (as well as in the first). Such a replication condition thus has to state whether a managed object instance has or shall have, a redundant replica in the second managed system or not. This can for example be achieved by defining a replication container (or more if needed) by pointing out a sub-tree root in the management information tree (MIT) in which case operations towards sub-tree roots and all the instances contained within it are replicated. However, the replication conditions can be different in different applications and of course also other conditions, e.g. particularly implementation specific conditions may be given. Generally replication conditions can be evaluated in an arbitrary order even if it is not always the case.

For explanatory reasons and in order to facilitate the understanding of the invention some concepts will be briefly discussed. The principles for a telecommunications management network are discussed in ITU-T (former CCITT) Recommendation M.3010. Systems management is also discussed in ITU-T Recommendation X.701. In a managed system the number of managed objects can be very high. In order to be able to keep track of all these managed objects they are kept in a tree structure which is denoted a Management Information Tree or a naming tree, c.f. ITU-T X.720. The Management Information Tree MIT forms the management view of a managed system or particularly a network element and the relationships forming the naming tree are called containment relations. A containment relationship means that a managed object of one class may contain other managed objects of the same or other classes. It constitutes a relationship between managed object instances. This is e.g. more thoroughly described and a particular solution is given in a Swedish patent application with application number 9502192-9 called "Arrangement and method relating to information managing systems" filed June, 16 1995 by the same applicant which is incorporated herein by reference. Said application among others relates to mapping managed objects to resources.

A managed object is only contained within one containing managed object and containing managed objects may themselves be contained in other managed objects. The containing relationship is used for naming managed objects and managed objects which are named in the terms of another object are denoted subordinate objects of the former whereas a managed object which establishes the name in question for other objects is denoted a superior managed object of the latter. The highest level of the naming tree is denoted a root and it is as such an object without any associated properties.

All managed objects are given an instance name when they are created. All managed objects subordinated another managed object must have different instance names. Thus the instance name does not have to be unique within the naming tree but two or more managed objects can have the same instance name, the condition being that they are subordinated different managed objects. Every managed object also has a Distinguished Name DN. This name is unique within the naming tree and the naming starts from the root of the naming tree and ends with the instance name of the managed object.

A managed object may represent more than one resource or a combination of resources. A managed object may also represent other managed objects. Still further two or more managed objects may represent different views of one and the same resource etc.

However, returning to the redundancy issues, once it has been established that an instance operation is to be replicated, sometimes a translation has to be done for those parameters which have different values in the first and the second managed system respectively; for example the distinguished names can be different in a first and a second managed system. A mapping is then done between the instances of an addressed managed system and the redundant system and after translation, the instance operations are invoked in the first and second managed system respectively. The translation is according to a first embodiment carried out in the first managed system whereas according to an alternative embodiment

it is done in the second managed system.

In particular embodiments of the present invention for scope or filter operations may apply so called atomic synchronization may be applied which means that an operation will only be performed if it can be successfully performed on every instance matching the scope and filter criteria that has been given. Alternatively best effort synchronization can be applied which means that an operation is performed on as many instances as possible.

In a particular embodiment of the invention relating to a Telecommunications Management Network the first and second managed systems comprise first and second network elements respectively and the managing system comprises an operations system. The management operations may particularly relate to operator updates relating for example to subscriber data etc. The first and second network elements even more particularly relate to a first and a second home location register of a mobile communication network. First and second respectively are merely denotations. Both the first and the second HLR (or managed system in general) act as a primary node for each one group of subscribers. In each HLR node there may be one or more primary subscriber groups and one or more secondary (back up) subscriber groups, i.e. a first HLR may act both as a primary HLR and as a stand-by or back-up HLR but for different groups. The same applies to the second HLR (one or more). Thus both a first and a second HLR (or managed system in general) have two functions.

A data storing managed system is also given which comprises a number of managed objects representing resources or resource objects, which managed system is managed by a managing system able to perform management operations thereon. On condition that a number of replication conditions are fulfilled, management operations broken down into managed object instance operations are replicated in the first managed system and sent to a second managed system which is provided for redundancy reasons. Thus the management operation is replicated indirectly via replication of

instance operations.

Moreover a method is provided which comprises the steps of sending a management operation to a first managed system, establishing in the first managed system which managed object instances that are concerned and breaking down the management operation into a number of instance operations and for each instance operation, if replication conditions are given, finding out if these are fulfilled. If this is the case (or if no conditions are given), the instance operation is sent to at least one second managed system and the instance operation is invoked in the first and the second managed systems respectively. In an advantageous embodiment, if an operation failure occurs in any of the managed systems, the operations are revoked in both the first and the second managed system.

Moreover a method is provided for replicating management operations in a system comprising managing and managed systems respectively according to which a management operation is broken down into a number of managed object instance operations in a first managed system which instance operations are sent to at least one second, redundant, managed system after evaluation relating to which managed object instances are concerned. The instance operations are then invoked both in the first and in the second managed system. A number of instance operations can be executed either sequentially or in parallel.

Particularly an operation may be revoked in case it cannot be successfully carried out in both the first and the second managed system(s) respectively.

It should however be clear that when reference is made to a second managed system, there may also be a number of second managed systems; the principle still remains the same.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The invention will in the following be further described in a non-limiting way under reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

FIG 1 schematically illustrates a single managed object
5 instance operation,

FIG 2 is a schematical flow diagram relating to a scope and
 filter operation with replication, and

10 FIG 3 schematically illustrates a scope and filter operation
 with replication including distributed transactions.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 The invention will in the following particularly be described in
 relation to a telecommunications management network which for
 example may take the form of Telecommunications Management Network
 TMN as described in ITU-T (former CCITT) Recommendation M.3010. A
 particular embodiment of the invention relates to managed systems
 in the form of Network Elements NE. Even more particularly the
20 invention will be described under reference to a particular
 embodiment relating to the provision of Home Location Register HLR
 redundancy in a mobile communication system. The invention is
 however by no means limited to home location registers of mobile
 communication systems but it relates to replication of management
25 operations on managed systems in general. The invention for example
 relates to a way of replicating management operations or
 particularly operator updates which for example can be used to
 realize redundancy in the management interface of managed systems
 (of which network elements or even more particularly home location
30 registers relate to particular embodiments), which e.g. store
 sensitive data or large amounts of data. The invention also relates
 to other replications wherein a safe access to management
 operations is needed such as for example relating to remote
 restoration logs and audits etc.

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Generally subscriber data in a Home Location Register HLR can be

updated in essentially two ways, namely by the network via the Mobile Application Part MAP and via the Operation and Maintenance operator via a Telecommunications Management Network TMN or TMN-like management operations. The present invention relates particularly to updates provided via TMN (or a similar network), i.e. not to updates via MAP and not to ordinary telephony traffic making updates.

Fig. 1 illustrates a managing system in the form of an Operations System OS managing a managed system, here particularly a Network Element NE of a Telecommunications Management Network. The extent of a telecommunications management network is standardized in the abovementioned recommendation and it may comprise anything between a simple connection between an operations system and a network element and a whole network of operations systems controlling a large telecommunications network. An operator interface denoted Q3 has been standardized for a telecommunications system providing the connection between managing and managed systems, here operations system and network element.

The Q3 interface defines the object oriented information model of the network elements and the communication protocol between the Operations System OS and the Network Elements NE. Via the Q3 interface (e.g. relating to the GSM system the Q3 interface as standardized by TMN provides support for subscriber administration) an operator can do a number of operations on a Managed Object MO of a Network Element NE such as for example create a managed object, set a value in a managed object, get a value from a managed object, do an action on a managed object and delete a managed object. The Network Element NE can be said to be divided into a Management Layer ML comprising a number of Managed Objects MO which represent a number of resources or Resource Objects RO of a Resource Layer RL. The MO:s are all that is visible from the operations system and form the management view as is further explained below under reference to Fig. 1.

As already referred to earlier in the application the Managed Objects MO represent resources or Resource Objects RO which are the real implementation of the Network Element NE. A managed object may represent one or more resource objects or different managed objects may represent different views of one resource and a managed object may also represent a combination of resources. The resources or resource objects may comprise functional resources, logical resources or physical resources. A resource may e.g. be an internal resource in an MO or it may comprise an RO. Finally a managed object may represent other managed objects. The operation system OS can manipulate a management view of e.g. a traffic system represented by the resources by sending Q3 operations, i.e. management operations on the Q3 interface, from the manager to the agent. As referred to above MO instances can be arranged in a Management Information Tree MIT. A management operation may either address a single MO instance thus forming a single operation or a number of selected instances contained within a sub-tree of the MIT forming a scope operation. Such scope operations may furthermore be combined with one or more filter condition(s) in which case the operation will only be invoked on MO instances falling within the scope and matching the filter thus forming a scope and filter operation or shortly a filter operation. E.g. in known standards a scope can be defined in four different ways, namely: only the root object, the root object and all subordinate instances, the root object and all subordinated instances including line n and finally all instances on line n below the root object. In the present document the first scope is simply denoted a single operation whereas the other three are denoted scope operations or filter operations. This is merely a matter of denotation. However, this means that in a large network element NE or in for example a large HLR, a management operation may be directed to a large number of MO instances, which can be a quite time consuming operation.

Fig. 1 relates however to a single MO instance operation. A Managed Object MO₂ in the management layer ML represents a Resource Object RO₂ in the Resource Layer RL which forms the resource

implementation of the Managed Object MO_2 and the storage of attribute values for MO_2 . The resources are not visible to the operator or the Operations System OS but only the managed objects representing them, via the Management View MV as illustrated. From Fig. 1 can be seen the Managed Object MO_2 e.g. denoting a MO of a "subscriber 2". The managing system OS manipulates the management view of the traffic system (resources) by sending Q3 operations from the manager of the OS to the agent of the NE.

Scope and filter operations as referred to above can be synchronized in substantially two different ways, namely atomic synchronization and best effort synchronization. With atomic synchronization is meant that a management operation will either be successfully performed on all or none of the instances matching the scope and filter criteria whereas a best effort synchronization means that an operation will be performed on as many instances as possible. In other words, if a scope operation with atomic synchronization fails for one MO instance, all changes will be undone and the complete operation will fail. If however best effort synchronization is applied, the operation will still be performed on the other instances irrespectively of whether it failed for one (or more) MO instance.

According to a particular embodiment a first and a second Home Location Register HLR_1 , HLR_2 constitute the first and the second managed systems respectively. Of course there could also be more than one second managed system; second managed systems in the present document merely meaning that there is one or more than one system holding the corresponding data of another or a first system in any combination. There is also no inherent difference between a first and a second system. The denotation is merely used to indicate that there are more than one system, and that particularly one thereof is addressed.

Management operations towards a subscriber may be sent to either of the two Home Location Registers (in case there are two, if there

are more than two, the operations can be sent to any of them) holding the corresponding data. Then the HLR receiving the management operation shall update the other one accordingly. Generally management operations towards a particular subscriber are directed to a particular HLR node. However, the invention is not affected by the addressing policy of any customer administration system.

Fig. 2 is a schematical flow diagram (giving one example on a flow) illustrating replication of a management operation sent from an Operations System OS relating to operator updates to a first Network Element NE, (which e.g. may be an HLR) over the Q3 interface. When the operation has been received in the addressed managed system, e.g. NE₁, a scope evaluation is carried out to establish which MO instances are concerned (or the maximum number of MO instances concerned). As referred to above, a management operation can be a single operation, a scope operation or a filter operation. When the scope has been established it is checked whether any filter criteria are to be fulfilled. This means that if a filtering is to be done, the filter is applied on each MO instance and the result thereof is a set of MO instances within the scope to which the operation has to be applied.

Moreover one or more replication conditions can be given which have to be fulfilled by the instance operations in order that they be replicated. It should be noted that there does not have to be any replication conditions, but that there may be one or more. Moreover is the internal order of independent replication conditions not important. They can often be evaluated in any order. One example on a replication condition is that the operation is an updating operation. This means that the operation as such must change data; if data is not changed, there is no need for a replication. As discussed earlier in the application the operations create, set, delete and action are operations which may change data. If the operation is not an updating operation, data can be read etc, this being irrelevant for the present invention. Generally the operation

is then only invoked locally in NE_1 .

5 If however the operation is of an updating nature, it is proceeded
to a second replication condition (as already discussed above the
order is not relevant but they are just denoted first, second etc.
for exemplifying reasons) stating that an MO instance has to be
redundant. This means that it is examined whether the MO instance
as such is or shall be present in both NE_1 and NE_2 . If there is no,
or shall not be such an MO instance in the second managed system
10 NE_2 , it is incorrect to replicate that instance operation. The
replication condition relating to whether an MO instance has a
redundant replica in a second Network Element NE_2 can take a number
of different forms, for example depending on the implementation
concerned etc. One example thereon may relate to a replication
15 container which is defined by pointing out a sub-tree root in the
MIT. Then operations towards the sub-tree root and all the
instances contained within it, are to be replicated.

20 If the given replication conditions are fulfilled (the replication
conditions discussed above merely constitute examples, a number of
alternatives are possible and there can be fewer as well as more),
the instance operation is sent to NE_2 . Before that however, if
there are any node specific parameters in the operation, these have
to be translated into the corresponding values for NE_2 . This is the
25 case for attributes in operations of type distinguished name since
the MO instances in the first and the second NE respectively have
different distinguished names.

30 Alternatively the translation can be carried out in the second
managed system after replication of the operation, but before
invoking it in NE_2 . After translations are done, the corresponding
instance operation is invoked in the second managed system, here
 NE_2 . If the operation is successful both in NE_1 , NE_2 , this can be
reported to the operations system if the operator so requests. The
35 sending of confirmation reports can also depend on the kind of
operation etc. For example, according to ITU-T X.710 success

confirmation and failure confirmation is applied for create, delete, get, set and action operating only if the operator so requests. If however the operation fails in any of NE_1 , NE_2 , it is rolled back or undone in some way and the Operations System OS is informed thereon, e.g. via an error message if failure confirmation is applicable.

In order to make sure that the content in NE_1 is consistent with the content in NE_2 , the operations in the two NEs may be included in a distributed transaction. The data will then be updated consistently in both systems. This is particularly important if the management operation is a so called atomic scope operation wherein the transactions may include thousands of MO instances.

If the management operation is a single operation or a best effort scope operation, there will be several distributed transactions, one for each instance operation. If on the other hand the management operation is an atomic scope operation there will only be one distributed transaction which includes all instance operations.

According to a first embodiment the instance operations are done consecutively one by one. This means that for an instance operation on an MO meeting e.g. scope and filter requirements the replication conditions are examined (in any desired order), translations (if any) and replication is done and the operation is invoked in both (in case there are two) NE:s. Only after invoking the operation is proceeded to the next instance operation. In an alternative embodiment a number of instance operations are invoked parallelly, i.e. the whole procedure is done in parallel. If the execution is done in sequence or in parallel or partly parallel etc. depends e.g. on the particular implementation.

Fig. 3 more clearly illustrates a scope and filter operation with replication wherein the invocation of the operations is included in coordinated transactions.

In Fig. 3 a scope and filter management operation with best effort synchronization is sent to a first managed system, which in this embodiment is a Home Location Register HLR_1 .

5 "1" indicates the reception of the management operation in the addressed HLR_1 . A scope evaluation 2 is then carried out as also discussed under reference to Fig. 2. The scope evaluation results in a set of MO instances, i.e. a stream of objects $MO(2)$ to which the filter is to be applied through a filter evaluation 3. The
10 filter is applied on each MO instance and the result thereof is a set of MO instances or a stream of objects $MO(3)$ to which the operation is to be applied, i.e. a set of selected managed objects 4 is formed.

15 The instance operations are then transmitted (e.g. one by one) to the replication function 5 which comprises a number of replication conditions as also discussed earlier. According to the first (here) replication condition 6 is checked whether the operation is an updating operation, i.e. if it relates to creation of, deletion of,
20 setting a value in or doing an action on a managed object. If the operation is not an updating operation, no replication is carried out and the operation may then only be invoked locally. If on the other hand it is established that it is an updating operation, then the second replication condition 7 is evaluated for each selected
25 MO instance to see if it is a redundant MO instance, i.e. if the MO instance shall be replicated. This is done for example by pointing out a sub-tree in the MIT 7a.

If it is not a redundant MO instance, no replication takes place
30 and the operation is only invoked locally. For each redundant MO instance however, a translation is done and the corresponding instance operation is sent to the second HLR, HLR_2 . As referred to earlier, the translation can in principle be done either in the first or in the second HLR, if only it is done before invoking the
35 operation in the second HLR. It should however be noted that only node-specific parameters of the operation have to be translated as

discussed above under reference to Fig. 2. The translation operation may e.g. be carried out via replica-mapping 8a between two MIT:s.

5 In HLR₂ the operation is invoked within a transaction on the MO replica-B. The instance operation 9 is also invoked within a transaction on the local MO replica-A in HLR₁. Via the transaction coordinator 10 the transactions are so coordinated that the operation either succeeds in both or none of the first and second HLR₁ and HLR₂ respectively. The alternatives of synchronization of scope or filter operations have already been discussed. If it is a scope operation with best effort synchronization, the transactions will be coordinated per replicated MO pair (one in HLR₁ and one in HLR₂). If the operation is a scope operation with atomic synchronization the coordinated transaction will include all instance operations.

Finally, if the operation succeeds both in HLR₁ and HLR₂ a confirmation that the operation has been successful may be sent to the operator or to the operations system even if this is not the case for all operations. For some operations the operator can choose if he wants a confirmation or not. If however the operation has failed either in HLR₁ or in HLR₂ (or both), a message that the operation has failed is in some cases sent to the operator as the result 11 (for a number of operations (as discussed earlier) only if the operator so requests).

Although the invention has been particularly described under reference to managed systems in the form of home location registers in a mobile communication system, the invention is by no means limited thereto but applies to any kind of managed system wherein management operations are carried out by an operator or an operations system or generally it is applicabale to any application wherein access to management operations is needed such as for example remote logs and audits etc.

It is an advantage of the invention that the operator or an operation system does not have to be aware about redundancy or in other words redundancy is hidden for the operator or operations systems. Moreover standardized management interfaces are not affected by the replication.

Another advantage of the invention is that scope synchronization is preserved. Moreover, apart from handling attribute values, use is made of additional MO functionality such as for example consistency checks. It is to be noted that in case the MO functionality results in external event reports or invocation of signalling (MAP) services, the information model might require that such events are suppressed in some of the NEs in order to prevent multiple or incorrect external events. Still other advantages are that 2 and 3 phase commit transaction protocols are rendered possible and interference with MAP (Mobile Application Part) traffic as well as other management operations addressing either one of the redundant nodes is prevented by synchronous locking of MO instances. The latter relates to the particular embodiment as described relating to a mobile communication system. However, the invention can be varied freely, being merely limited by the scope of the claims.

CLAIMS

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1. A system comprising at least one managing system (OS), a number of first managed systems ($NE_1; HLR_1$) and a number of second managed systems ($NE_2; HLR_2$), each managed system ($NE_1, NE_2; HLR_1, HLR_2$) comprising a number of managed objects (MO) representing resources, a management interface (Q3) for providing communication between managing and managed systems via which management operations can be sent from the managing system(s) (OS) to the managed system(s) ($NE_1, NE_2; HLR_1, HLR_2$),
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
15 that for providing redundancy a management operation is replicated and provided to a first and to at least one second managed system and in that the replication is done in the first managed system ($NE_1; HLR_1$).

20 2. A system according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the management operation is processed and replicated in the first managed system ($NE_1; HLR_1$) and in that it is sent from a first managed system to at least one second managed system ($NE_2; HLR_2$).

25 3. A system according to claim 2,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
via processing in the first managed system ($NE_1; HLR_1$), the management operation is broken down into a number of managed object (MO) instance operations and in that each managed object (MO) instance operation is replicated thus constituting the replication of the management operation.

30 4. A system according to anyone of the preceding claims,
35 c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the management operation is a single operation, i.e. it merely

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addresses a single managed object (MO) instance.

5. A system according to anyone of claims 1-3,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,

5 that the management operation is a scope operation addressing a
number of Managed Object (MO) instances.

6. A system according to claims 5,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,

10 that at least one filtering condition is applied on the scope
operation, the management operation thus forming a filter
operation.

7. A system according to anyone of claims 3-6,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,

15 that one or more replication conditions are given and in that only
instance operations fulfilling the given replication condition(s)
are replicated.

8. A system according to claim 7,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,

20 that a first replication condition states that the instance
operation has to be an updating operation.

9. A system according to claim 8,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,

25 that the instance operation relates to one or more of the
operations creating a managed object (MO), deleting a managed
object (MO), setting a value in a managed object (MO) and invoking
30 an action on a managed object (MO) instance.

10. A system according to claim 5 and 7 or 8,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,

35 that the replication conditions only are used on the instance
operations matching instances comprised within the scope of the
operation.

11. A system according to anyone of claims 7-10,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that according to a further replication condition an object
5 instance of an instance operation in a first managed system
(NE₁;HLR₁) shall have an instance replica in a second managed system
(NE₂,HLR₂).

12. A system according to claim 11,
10 c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that at least one replication container is defined by pointing out
a sub-tree root in a management information tree (MIT) containing
the managed object (MO) instances and in that for instance
operations towards sub-tree roots and/or all instances contained
15 within that, a replication is carried out unless any other
replication conditions are not fulfilled.

13. A system according to anyone of the preceding claims,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
20 that for replicated instance operations, a translation is done in
the first or the second managed system (NE₁,NE₂) of those parameters
having different values in the first and the second managed systems
respectively.

14. A system according to anyone of claims 5-13,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the scope or filter operation are atomic synchronization
operations, i.e. an operation will only be performed if it can be
successfully performed on every instance matching the scope and/or
30 filter conditions and all their replicas.

15. A system according to anyone of claims 5-13,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the scope or filter operation are best effort synchronization
35 operations, i.e. the operation is performed on all replicas of as
many instances as possible.

16. A system according to anyone of the preceding claims,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the first and the second managed system comprise a first and
a second network element (NE_1, NE_2).

5

17. A system according to claim 16,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the first and the second network elements respectively
comprise a first and a second Home Location Register (HLR_1, HLR_2)
in a mobile communications network.

10

18. A data storing managed system ($NE_1; HLR_1$) comprising a number of
managed objects (MO) representing resources or resource objects
which system is managed by a managing system able to perform
management operations on the managed system,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that if a number of condition(s) is/are fulfilled, a management
operation on one or more managed object (MO) instances is
replicated in the managed system (NE_1) and sent to a second managed
system (NE_2, HLR_2) thus providing redundancy.

15

20

19. A system according to claim 18,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that management operation is broken down into a number of instance
operations in the managed system and in that the management
operation is replicated indirectly via replication of said instance
operations.

25

20. Mobile communication system comprising a number of first Home
Location Registers (HLR_1) and a number of second Home Location
Registers (HLR_2) wherein the subscriber data is substantially the
same in a first Home Location Register (HLR_1) and a corresponding
second Home Location Register (HLR_2) wherein operator updates are
addressed to a first Home Location Register (HLR_1),

30

c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the operator updates are replicated in the first Home Location

35

Register (HLR_1) and sent to the corresponding second Home Location register (HLR_2) without affecting the operator and the interface between operator and the first Home Location Register (HLR_1).

5 21. Mobile communication system according to claim 20,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that if any operator updates cannot be successfully performed both
in a first and at least one redundant second Home Location Register
(HLR_1), the up-dates are revoked in both the first and second Home
10 Location Register.

22. A method of providing redundancy in a system comprising at
least a first and a second managed system, each of which comprises
a number of managed objects (MO), the method comprising the steps
15 of:

when a management operation is sent to a first managed system
($NE_1; HLR_1$):

- establishing in the first managed system ($NE_1; HLR_1$) which
20 managed object instances that are concerned,
- breaking down the management operation into a number of
instance operations, and
for each instance operation:
- examining if any replication conditions are given, and if so,
25 examining if this/these are fulfilled,
- if yes, sending the instance operation to the at least one
second managed system,
- invoking the instance operation in the first and second
managed systems.

30 23. Method according to claim 22,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that it further comprises the step of:

- translating the parameters of an instance operation that have
35 different values in the first and second systems respectively.

24. Method according to claim 23,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the translation is done in the first managed system before
sending the instance operation to the second managed system(s).

5

25. Method according to claim 23,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that it comprises the steps of:

10

- sending a replicated instance operation to a second managed system,
- making the translation in the second managed system,
- invoking the instance operation.

15

26. Method according to anyone of claims 22-25,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that the instance operations of a management operation are
replicated and invoked one by one.

20

27. Method according to anyone of claims 22-25,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that a number of instance operations of a management operation are
handled parallelly at least in part.

25

29. A method according to anyone of claims 22-27,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n ,
that if an operation failure occurs in one of the managed systems,
the operations are revoked in both the first and second managed
system.

30

29. A method of replicating management operations in a system
comprising redundant managed systems ($NE_1, NE_2; HLR_1, HLR_2$) comprising
the steps of:

35

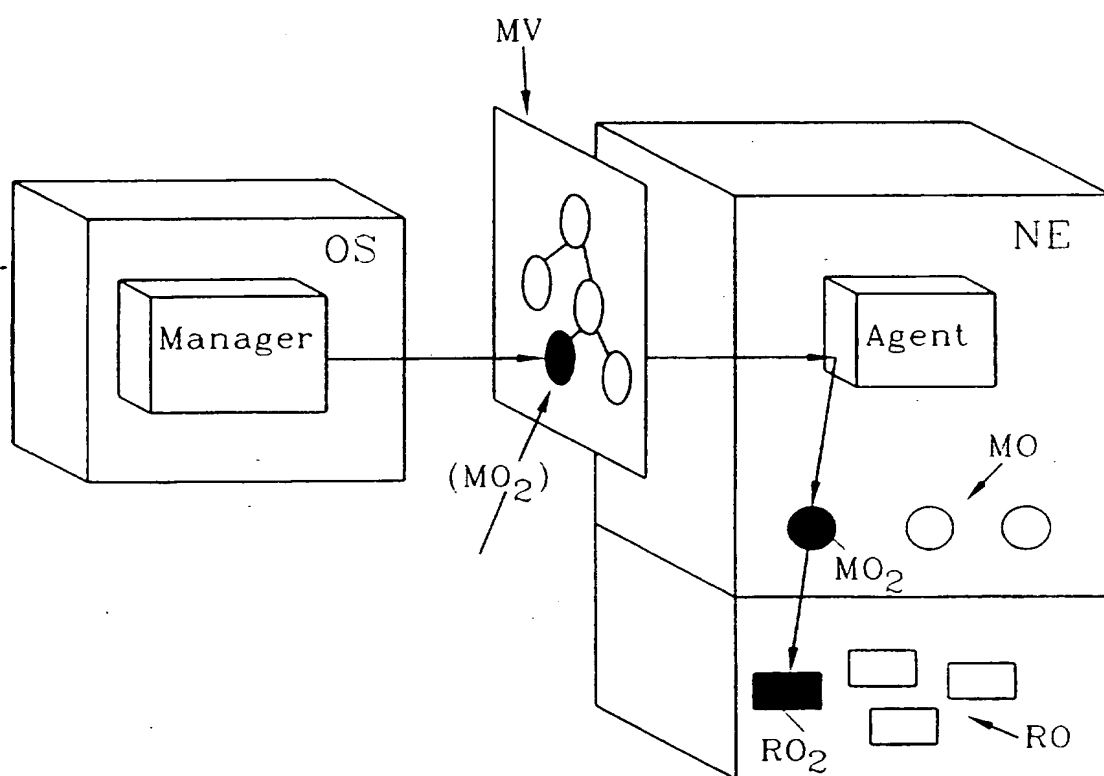
- establishing which instance operations correspond to a management operation,
- for each instance operation examining if any replication

conditions are given,

- if an instance operation fulfills the given replication conditions or if there are no conditions, replicating the instance operation,
- 5 - invoking the instance operation in the redundant systems.

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FIG. 1



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FIG. 2

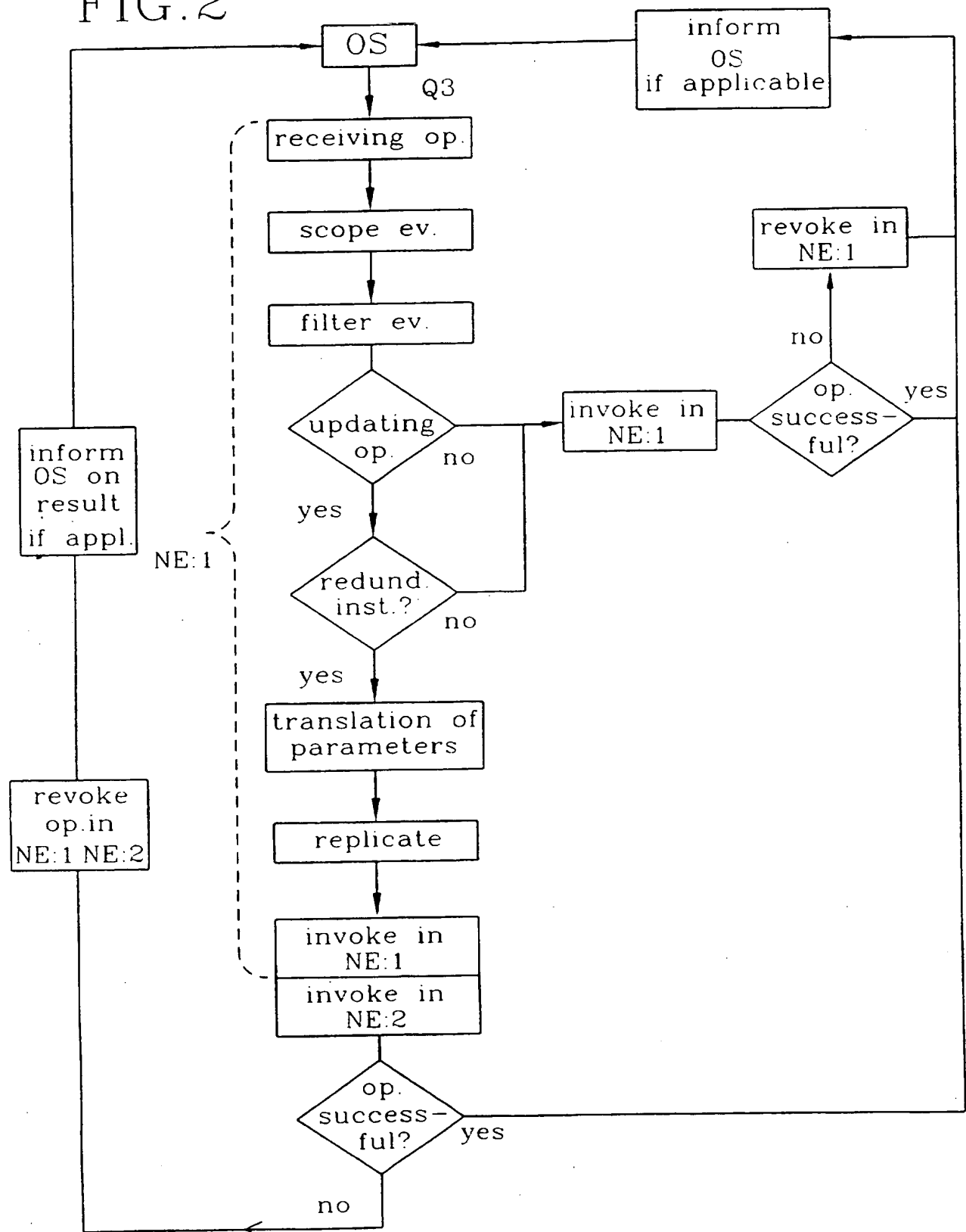
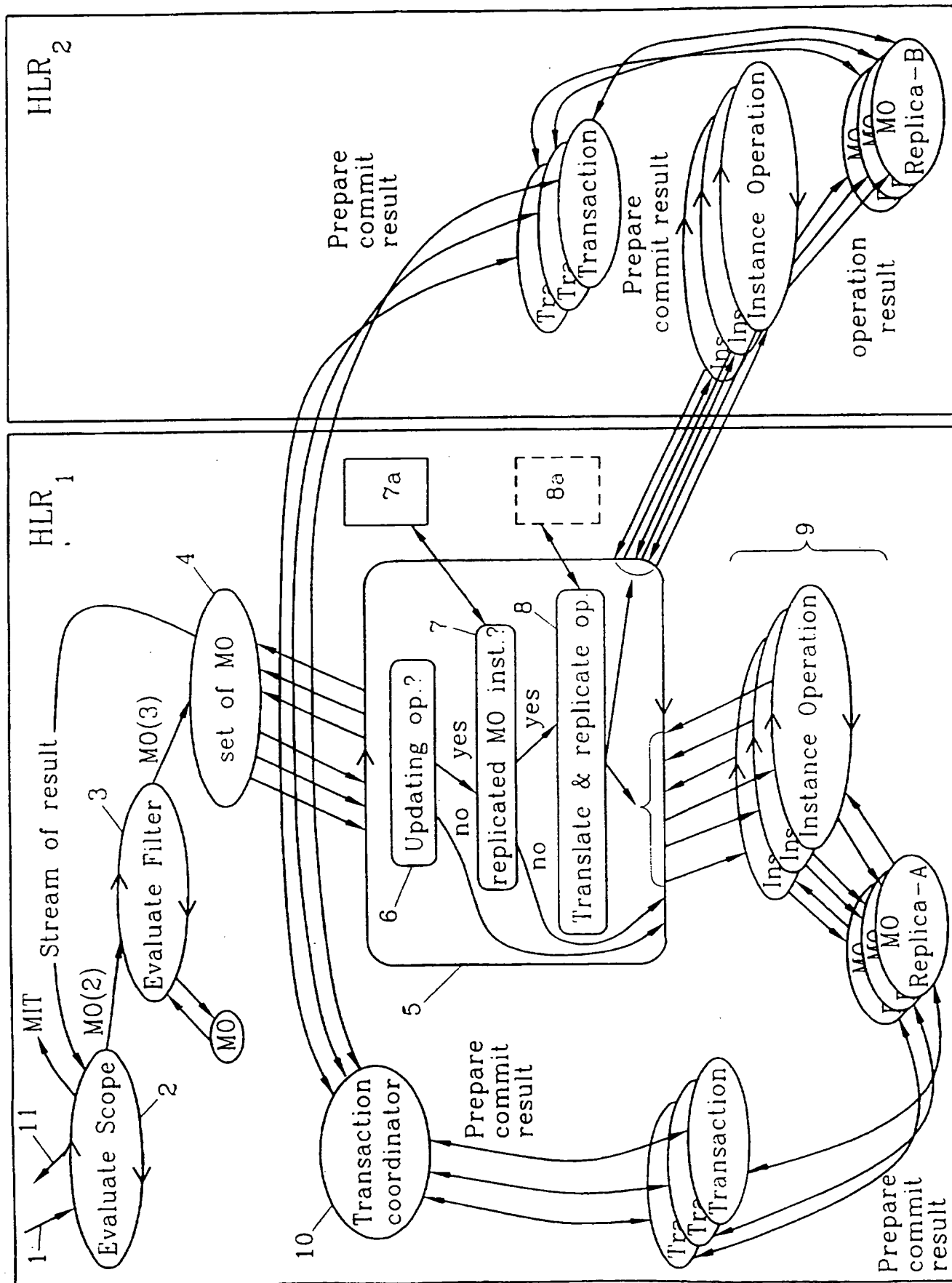


FIG. 3

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/SE 96/01287

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC6: H04L 12/24, H04Q 3/00, H04Q 7/38 // G06F 17/30
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC6: H04L, H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPAT JAPIO INSPEC

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	K.SAKAE ET AL., "A study on storing managed objects in object oriented database for local fiber optical networks following management information tree", IEEE Globecom, Orlando, December 6-9, 1992, page 255-259, see pages 256-257.	4-15, 22-29
A	--	1-3, 16-21
Y	W.WIDL., "CCITT:s standardisering av driftstödsnät," Ericsson Review, no. 2, 1991, page 34-page 51, see pages 43-45, 49-51, figures 14, 22.	1-29
Y	WO 9423506 A1 (TELEFONAKTIEBOLAGET LM ERICSSON), 13 October 1994 (13.10.94), page 3 - page 12	1-29

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☒ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

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* "Y" document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

* "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

11 March 1997

Date of mailing of the international search report

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SE 96/01287

C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	W.WIDL ET AL., "In Search of Managed Objects". Ericsson Review, no. 1-2, 1992, page 34-page 56, see pages 37, 47-49 --	1-29
A	M.KANTOLA ET AL., "Deployment of TMN to a family of switching network elements, XIV INT. Switching Symposium, vol. 1, October 1992, page 75 -page 79, see page 76. -- -----	1-29

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
Information on patent family members

International application No.
PCT/SE 96/01287

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
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		AU-A- 6439294	24/10/94
		CN-A- 1106986	16/08/95
		EP-A- 0679144	02/11/95
		EP-A- 0683942	29/11/95
		FI-A- 945627	29/11/94
		FI-A- 952876	12/06/95
		JP-T- 7507912	31/08/95
		NO-A- 952603	29/06/95
		SE-C- 501088	07/11/94
		SE-A- 9301076	01/10/94
		US-A- 5594942	14/01/97

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